

# BETH PANCOE MUNICIPAL AQUATIC CENTER

Bangor, Maine

**A**uthor and Bangor resident Stephen King made a donation to the city of Bangor to honor a local diving star, Beth Pancoe, who died in 1999 after a long battle with leukemia. The city supplemented the donation to meet the total project cost of \$1.78 million.

A replacement to an existing antiquated facility nearby, the facility's primary users were to be the children of Bangor, although the city wanted a design that would also encourage use by parents. The pool had to accommodate children from toddler to teens simultaneously in a single body of water. The city originally envisioned three separate pools. This, however, was not within the budget, and instead a single pool was divided into three distinct zones: a zero-depth alcove with interactive water features, a large free-swim area that is used for lessons and lap swimming, and a splashdown alcove for the water slide.

Water features with gentle jets and sprays were selected for younger children. Features that drop water and create large sheets of water provide appeal for older children. The slide has a fast straight flume and a slower double-loop flume that can entertain "thrill seekers" of all kinds.

The facility is located adjacent to an existing playground and in the shadow of the local high



THE NEW FACILITY HONORS A LOCAL DIVING STAR, BETH PANCOE, WHO DIED IN 1999 AFTER A LONG BATTLE WITH LEUKEMIA

school baseball stadium, and is connected to an existing network of park paths. Within the fenced enclosure, a large sun-bathing lawn is situated at the zero-depth end of the pool. The lawn area provides a comfortable location for parents to watch their children and encourages longer visits by bathers. The bathhouse anchors the opposite end of the pool, marking the entry from the parking lot and providing a visual buffer between bathers and cars.

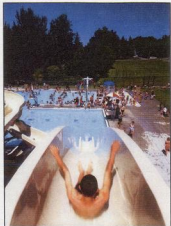


WATER FEATURES WITH GENTLE JETS AND SPRAYS WERE SELECTED FOR YOUNGER CHILDREN

THE BATHHOUSE SERVES AS A VISUAL BUFFER BETWEEN BATHERS AND THE CARS.



Photo by Bangor Daily Press



THE SLIDE HAS A FAST STRAIGHT FLUME AND A SLOWER DOUBLE-LOOP FLUME THAT CAN ENTERTAIN "THRILL SEEKERS" OF ALL KINDS.



THE BATHHOUSE PROVIDES A CONTROLLED ENTRY POINT, CHANGING AREAS AND SUPPORT SPACE FOR LIFEGUARDS, STAFF, AND MECHANICAL AND FILTRATION EQUIPMENT.



FEATURES THAT DROP WATER AND CREATE LARGE SHEETS OF WATER PROVIDE APPEAL FOR OLDER CHILDREN.

**Architect of Record:**  
Bergmann Hendrie +  
Archetype Inc.  
Boston, Mass.

**Cost:** \$1.78 million  
**Square Foot:**  
2,500 (bathhouse),  
7,000 (pool surface)  
**Occupancy:** June 2004